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meeting of the Anthropological Institute and the Folk-Lore Society.

THE valuable library relating to American Indians collected by the eminent scholar, the late J. Hammond Trumbull, of Hartford, has been acquired by the Reference Library of Watkinson, Conn.

It is stated in *Nature* that a British exploring expedition to Abyssinia has been arranged and will leave England at once. The members are Mr. James J. Harrison, Mr. Powell Cotton, Mr. W. Fitzhugh Whitehouse (of Newport, Rhode Island), and Mr. A. E. Butter. Mr. Donald Clarke will go as surveyor and geographer, and a taxidermist will accompany the party. The objects of the expedition are scientific and sporting, and it is expected that the journey will occupy about nine months.

THE first meeting of the new session of the Royal Geographical Society, was held on Monday, November 13th, when the President, Sir Clements Markham was expected to give a short opening address, to be followed by a paper by Mr. W. Rickmer Rickmers on his 'Travels in Bokhara,' illustrated by numerous lantern slides. The paper at the following meeting, November 27th, will be by Mr. Vaughan Cornish on 'Desert Sand Dunes.' At the December meeting Colonel Sir John Farquharson will probably give 'An Account of the Past Twelve Years' Work of the Ordinance Survey,' from the directorship of which he has recently retired. Other papers expected to be given during the session are: 'An Ascent of Mount Kenya,' by Mr. H. J. Mackinder; 'The Work of the Yermak Ice-Breaker in the Spitsbergen Seas,' by Admiral Makaroff; 'Travels in Central Asia,' by Captain H. H. P. Deasy; 'Travels in the Region of Lake Rudolf and the Sobat River,' by Captain Wellby; 'Travels in Abyssinia,' by Mr. H. Weld Blundell; 'Anthropogeography of British New Guinea,' by Professor Haddon.

THE Council of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers having decided to hold monthly general meetings during the ensuing session, the first of such gatherings took place on October 27th in the new buildings of the institution at Storey's-gate, St. James's Park. The London

Times states that the chair was taken by the president, Sir W. H. White, and there was a full attendance of members. In opening the proceedings the president referred to the new arrangements made by the Council. He said that the alteration in their meetings had been decided upon only after the very fullest consideration. The feeling of the Council was that, having entered into their new house, they ought to make full use of it, and that a good beginning would be made by arranging monthly meetings during the winter. It has also been decided to hold their meetings on a single evening rather than, as had been the custom hitherto, on two three evenings in succession. By that means they hoped to get a better discussion. He could only appeal to the members to help in every way they could to make the new arrangement work successfully. They hoped to begin the graduates' meetings to-day. They looked to members to help them also in this new departure. A paper was then read by Mr. W. Ingham on 'The Incrustation of Pipes at the Torquay Waterworks.' He described the mechanical action of the scrapers constructed to remove the incrustation of the water pipes at Torquay, and the increase in the discharging power of the main affected by their use. Speaking generally he said it might be laid down with a fair approximation to the truth that well waters had not as great an action on pipes as those from upland gathering grounds, but where the water was soft the corrosive action would be greater. Filtered water had also a less corrosive power than unfiltered water. Much had been done to get a satisfactory coating to pipes, but there was still considerable room for improvement. It was hardly necessary to point out that a fortune awaited the man who could invent something that would withstand the action of soft waters. A discussion followed, and the meeting was adjourned until Friday, November 24th, when Lord Charles Beresford will read a paper on the opening for English engineers in China.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

As the result of a competition in which six invited firms of architects and three architectural firms in the city of St. Louis competed,

Messrs. Cope & Stewardson of Philadelphia were chosen as architects of the new buildings for Washington University. Mr. R. D. Andrews and Mr. R. Clipston Sturgis, of Boston, and Mr. Walter Cook, of New York, acted as advisers to the Board of Directors of the University in the competition. Messrs. Cope & Stewardson expect to have the plans for the new buildings completed by the first of March next; the work will then begin on the construction.

THE family of the late John Simkins, who was congressman from Massachusetts and a graduate of Harvard University, have given \$20,000 to the Lawrence Scientific School of the University. The fund will be used to equip the mining and metallurgical laboratories and a bronze memorial tablet will be placed in one of the rooms.

THE will of the late Elizabeth Coles, leaving about \$200,000 to found a Coles College in Newport, has been compromised, the City Council accepting \$70,000 to endow a professorship of Natural Science in the Townsend Industrial School.

WE are glad to learn that the decree of the United States Circuit Court dismissing the bill of review in the Garcelon case has been affirmed. This should give Bowdoin College the property bequeathed to it valued at about \$400,000.

THE chair of chemistry in the University of Toronto is vacant and will be filled as the result of applications addressed to the Minister of Education, Toronto, prior to January 1st, next. The salary is \$2,500, rising by annual increments to \$3,200. Further particulars may be obtained from the President of the University.

THE Council of St. John's College, Cambridge, has elected as fellows of the College, Mr. J. J. Lister, university demonstrator of animal morphology, and Mr. A. C. Seward, F.R.S., university lecturer in botany, known for his publications on paleobotany.

ALLEN S. WHITNEY has been appointed professor of the science and art of teaching in the University of Michigan.

PAUL I. MURRILL, B.S. (State College of Kentucky), Ph.D. (Michigan), of Detroit, has been appointed to the Stearns fellowship in pharmaceutical research at the University of Michigan.

COLONEL J. W. OTTLEY, formerly Inspector-General of Irrigation in India, has been appointed president of the Royal Engineer's College, at Cooper's Hill, England.

DR. BERGER has been appointed professor of geography at Leipzig, and Professor M. v. Lenhossek, of Tübingen, has been called to the professorship of anatomy at Budapesth.

DR. W. FIGDOR has qualified as docent in plant anatomy and physiology at Vienna, and Dr. Pregl as docent in physiology at Gratz.

THE Ithaca correspondent of the New York *Evening Post* reports the appointment of non-resident lecturers in mechanical engineering at Cornell University as follows: November 3d, J. J. Swann, on 'Liquid Air'; November 17th, W. B. Snow, on 'Mechanical Ventilating and Heating'; December 1st, Professor Houston, on 'Evolution of Electric Energy'; December 15th, William Kent, on 'Power Production'; January 12th, H. E. Longwell, on 'New Westinghouse Gas Engine'; January 19th, A. E. Kennelly, on 'Electrical Engineering Experiences'; January 26th, C. J. Field, on 'Safe Current Transmission'; February 23d, W. P. Potter, on 'Three-Phase Railway Work'; March 9th, P. T. Dodge, on 'Mechanical Type-Setting'; April 13th, Elihu Thomson, on 'Special Work in Electrical Engineering'; April 27th, E. W. Rice, Jr., on 'Dynamo and Engine Construction'; May 4th, W. M. Macfarland, on 'Recent Engineering Practice.'

THE new University of London Hall for the Science of Political Economy, for which a site has been provided in the new street being formed by the London County Council in Clare-market, Strand, is to be proceeded with at once. The design by Mr. Maurice B. Adams, F.R.I.B.A., has been chosen by the trustees, of which body the Bishop of London and Mr. Sidney Webb, L.C.C., are active members. Mr. Passmore Edwards has given £10,000 towards the cost of the undertaking.